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Statistical Commission
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29 February-3 March 2000
Item 3 (g) of the provisional agenda*
Economic statistics: other economic statistics (city groups on economic statistics and Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics)

Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission a note on the activities of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics prepared by the International Labour Organization (secretariat of the Working Group), which is contained in the annex. The document is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session.[1]

Action by the Commission

2. The Commission is requested to comment on the activities of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics set out in the note by the International Labour Office.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4* (E/1999/24), chap. I.B.

* E/CN.3/2000/1.

00-22446 (E) 180100

Annex

Activities of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

1. The terms of reference of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics were presented to the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session (E/CN.3/1999/7/Add.1).

2. The scope of the work of the Working Group was debated at length when it was being established: whether it should be restricted to the consumer price index (CPI) or be extended to cover other price indices in particular the producer price index (PPI), a topic of interest for the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank. It was agreed that the mandate of the Working Group should, in principle, cover all price statistics; that the revision of the ILO *Manual on Consumer Price Indices* [a] and the preparation of the PPI manual should be carried out separately but in a coordinated manner; and that the elements of coordination should be a harmonized outline of the two manuals and ample cross-references, where necessary.

3. Since the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission, the Working Group has held two meetings at Geneva, in February and in November 1999. Reports on those meetings are available on request from the secretariat of the Working Group.

4. A technical expert group on the CPI was set up and had its first meeting in February 1999. It met again in November 1999 during the joint Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)/ILO meeting on CPI at Geneva. The ILO/ECE is the secretariat of this group.

5. The Ottawa Group on Price Indexes had a special session on the revision of the ILO *Manual* during its meeting at Reykjavik, Iceland, 25-27 August 1999. The Ottawa Group was informed of the procedures to be used for the revision of the *Manual* and the draft outline was presented to the Ottawa Group. The Working Group took this opportunity to meet informally.

6. A technical expert group on the producer price index was formed under the coordination of IMF. Its work is organized in step with that of the technical expert group on the CPI to ensure that the manuals have consistent organization and use consistent concepts and terminology. This group had its first meeting, back-to-back with the CPI technical expert group meeting, during the joint ECE/ILO meeting on CPI at Geneva in November 1999. The last international manual on producer prices was published by the United Nations in 1979.[b]

7. A reference group to the CPI technical expert group was created in order to ensure that the revision process is broad-based and that all regional concerns are addressed.

8. Work on the revision of both manuals has started, with agreement on a common outline and free exchange of information and relevant text between the two processes. Writing of draft chapters has started and the editing processes have been established. It is anticipated that a first version of the revised *Manual* will be ready by spring 2001.

Notes

[a] Geneva, 1989.

[b] *Manual on Producers' Price Indices for Industrial Goods*, Statistical Papers, Series M, No. 66 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 79.XVII.11).

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Statistical Commission
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Tourism satellite account

Report of the World Tourism Organization on the tourism satellite account and related methodological outputs

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the World Tourism Organization on the tourism satellite account (TSA) and related methodological outputs, which is contained in the annex to the present note.

2. The report describes the statistical design of a TSA and an update of the United Nations and World Tourism Organization *Recommendations on Tourism Statistics*,[1] including the provisional list of tourism-specific products (selective adoption and adaptation of the Central Product Classification[2] to the needs of tourism). It describes the process that has been followed in developing these products including the Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism (Nice, 15-18 June 1999).

3. The drafts of the TSA (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/80) and update of the United Nations/World Tourism Organization *Recommendations on Tourism* Statistics including the provisional list of tourism-specific products (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/83/Rev.1) are before the Commission for its review and possible adoption.

Notes

[1] Statistical Papers, No. 83 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.6).

[2] Statistical Papers, No. 77, Ver.1.0 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 98.XVII.5).

* E/CN.3/2000/1.

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Annex

Tourism satellite account and related methodological outputs

1. Five years ago, when the design of a tourism satellite account (TSA) was being considered, a number of options were reviewed, as the recommendations concerning the construction of functional satellite accounts allowed for great flexibility in establishing the link of such accounts to the central framework of the System of National Accounts, 1993 (1993 SNA).[a] It was decided[b] that the consistency of the TSA with the main aggregates of the 1993 SNA, such as gross domestic product (GDP), was to be considered a basic requirement. As a consequence, the production boundary adopted for the TSA was totally consistent with that of the 1993 SNA.

2. The fundamental structure of the TSA is based on the general balance existing within an economy between the demand for goods and services generated by tourism, and their supply. The aim is to analyse in detail all aspects of demand for goods and services that might be associated with tourism within the economy, to observe the operational interface with the supply of such goods and services within the same economy of reference, and to examine how this supply interacts with other economic activities.

3. The elaboration of such a set of concepts, definitions, classifications, tables and aggregates for the analysis of tourism would not have been possible without the development of tourism statistics which was fostered by the World Tourism Organization International Conference on Travel and Tourism Statistics held in Ottawa in 1991, the adoption of the United Nations/World Tourism Organization *Recommendations on Tourism Statistics* in 1994,[c] the publication of the 1993 SNA in 1994, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) *Balance of Payments Manual*, 5th ed. (BPM5) in 1993,[d] and the European System of Accounts: ESA 1995 (ESA95) in 1995,[e] the contributions of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in bringing out instruments of statistical analysis of tourism and, last but not least, the experience of countries that were already using such an instrument (among which, Canada deserves a very special mention). Because of all these different inputs into the design of the TSA, the tourism satellite account (TSA): methodological references may rightly claim to be a new international statistical standard that could allow for valid comparisons from country to country and between groups of countries. Nevertheless, it is clear that regional organizations might need to make some adjustments in order to take into consideration the specificity of their member countries.

4. Since the beginning of the process in 1995, the focus has been on the development of an adequate representation both of the specific aspects of tourism, and of the special characteristics of the information corresponding to tourism products and activities. The topics debated can be classified in two broad categories:

(a) Concepts: It was necessary to define the scope of tourism so that it could be included within the framework of the national accounts (following chap. XXI of the 1993 SNA, this required defining the goods and services specific to tourism). It was also necessary to define the basic concept of demand associated with tourism (visitor consumption) in which tourism business expenses (limited to the expenditures on transport and accommodation of employees on business trips and those incurred by business on behalf of guests outside their usual environment) were also to be included. Finally, the detailed study of tourism consumption led, for instance, to the identification of a specific tourism activity to be associated with the ownership of a second home used mainly for tourism purposes;

(b) Presentation of results: The special focus of the TSA required many adjustments to the classical presentation of national accounts data, among which were the following: a reclassification of goods and services; the identification of tourism industries as the set of establishments whose principal activity was a tourism-characteristic activity; a net valuation of package tours and of the services provided by tourism agencies; and the breakdown of the value of goods acquired by visitors between the distribution margins and the rest of the value of the goods.

5. Besides these technical aspects, the statistical design had to take into consideration the fact that its implementation would occur in countries at very different stages of statistical development in tourism.

Even the countries more advanced in that matter did not possess the whole set of statistical information that was required for the full compilation of the proposed TSA. For this reason, it was necessary to consider a design that would allow for gradual implementation and, consequently, also for gradual international comparability of results. This gradual procedure has two main aspects:

(a) The different priority assigned to the 10 tables that make up the proposal (the basic core of the TSA in the first stage of its implementation is related to tables 1-7 and 10). As a consequence, these are the tables (and the associated aggregates) to be used for international comparison, for the time being;

(b) The limitation in the level of aggregation of products and activities to be used initially for international comparability of results (and of the associated tourism-characteristicity of products).

6. It must be emphasized that the World Tourism Organization was not alone in developing the statistical design of the TSA. Other institutions such as OECD[f] and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat)[g] were also involved, and without their contributions, the project would not have achieved culmination (see appendix). Agreements were reached on the treatment of different issues, most of them crucial to the project, such as the identification of the aggregates required to characterize the size of tourism, the clarification of the boundaries of visitor consumption, and the determination of the scope of consumer durables and of tourism gross fixed capital formation. However, agreements do not necessarily mean that views on the proposal are unanimous. This should not be expected, as major homogeneity in the statistical infrastructure of the member countries of OECD and Eurostat might lead to the establishment of stricter criteria for the definitions and accounting rules and to differences in the presentation of results, as has been the case in Europe, for instance, as regards the ESA95.

7. In September 1999, more than two months after the celebration of the World Tourism Organization Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism, the creation of an Intersecretariat Working Group of the World Tourism Organization, OECD and Eurostat, with the object of establishing a common conceptual framework for the development of the methodological design of the TSA and promoting its implementation in their member countries, became the guarantee of a new, promising collaboration. The presentation of this new statistical instrument is the first result of this collaboration, but it will not be the last: the next step should be the development of a common questionnaire where the different levels of aggregation and coverage of the results of TSAs (required by the different organizations and related, for the time being, to the basic core of the proposal) could find their place.

8. Existing international recommendations and the development of tourism statistics in the last years have had a decisive contribution to make to the realization of this project. At the same time, it became clear that an update, in various areas of the 1994 United Nations/World Tourism Organization *Recommendations on Tourism Statistics* was necessary that would:

(a) Clarify terminology that seems ambiguous with respect, for instance, to the use of the concepts of residence and of economic territory, transpose the concept of household final consumption to that of the consumption of visitors, and create a new subcategory of same-day visitors such as "in-transit visitors". As a consequence, an update of four paragraphs within the first three chapters of part one, as well as some formal adjustments to some others, had been proposed;

(b) Enhance the scope of the analysis of the economic impact of tourism, which is currently restricted to the component of visitor consumption in cash. As a consequence, a completely new wording for part one, chapter VI, is proposed, as well as for part one, chapter I, section B, entitled "The need for tourism statistics";

(c) Eliminate part one, chapter VII, on further work to be carried out by the World Tourism Organization, this being appropriate since that work has already been achieved.

9. The 1994 United Nations/World Tourism Organization *Recommendations on Tourism Statistics* considered a classification only of tourism activities, namely, the Standard International Classification of Tourism Activities (SICTA), included as part two of the *Recommendations*. The development of the TSA requires the establishment also of a list of products specific to tourism, referring exclusively to those consumption goods and services that are acquired by visitors, with the object not only of its constituting a component of the list of tourism activities adopted in

1994, but also of its being used immediately in the measurement of the economic impacts of tourism. As a consequence, a provisional list of tourism-specific products (TSP) (related to visitor consumption) is included as a new part three of the *Recommendations*. This entails an additional adjustment to the present part one, chapter IV, of the publication in order to bring it into line with the new part three.

10. The presentation of the drafts of the TSA and update of the *Recommendations* including the provisional list of tourism-specific products must be understood as a first step in a process of methodological development of this new statistical instrument and as a building process with respect to guiding countries in the development of their own system of tourism statistics, the main objective being the completion of the TSA, which could be viewed as a synthesis of such a system. Consequently, its progressive implementation by countries will make it necessary in the future to update some of the recommendations included in this proposal, if adopted, as well as to promote new developments regarding classifications of products and activities, broader fields of application (national tourism indicators, balance-of-payments analysis, the regional level), specific modules (employment, government revenues) and other elements.

Notes

[a] Commission of the European Communities, International Monetary Fund, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, United Nations and World Bank, *System of National Accounts, 1993* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4).

[b] In the World Tourism Organization Steering Committee (created after the Ottawa Conference, 1991) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Statistical Working Party of the Tourism Committee.

[c] Statistical Papers, No. 83 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.6).

[d] Washington, D.C., International Monetary Fund, 1993.

[e] European Commission, *European System of Accounts: ESA 1995*, Luxembourg, Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1996.

[f] In 1992, OECD developed its tourism economic accounts; and in 1995, it issued its first guidelines for a tourism satellite account.

[g] Eurostat developed a legal framework, adopted in 1995, for creating an integrated system of basic statistical information on tourism supply and demand within the countries of the European Union.

Appendix

Process followed in developing the TSA

1. Set out below is the process in developing the TSA followed from March 1995 to the time of presentation of the "tourism satellite account (TSA): methodological references" to the Statistical Commission.

2. The following table sets out some major features of the work of Eurostat, OECD and the World Tourism Organization.

Organization	*Date work began (month/year)*	*Number of participating countries*[a]	*Number of meetings*[b,c]	*Number of TSA drafts prepared*
World Tourism Organization	June 1996	37[d]	8	6
OECD	March 1995	29	11	6
Eurostat	October 1998	6	3	[e]

[a] Average number of countries participating in the meetings.

[b] Up to end-1999.

[c] The three organizations (World Tourism Organization, OECD and Eurostat) have always been invited to each other's meetings.

[d] An average of nine organizations and five industry representatives also participated in the World Tourism Organization's meetings.

[e] Eurostat has not sought to develop a new alternative to the design of a TSA.

3. The following experts have cooperated over the years in the preparation of the various documents presented:

Dr. A. Franz (Austria), former Head of National Accounts Department at the Austrian Central Statistical Office, and expert in tourism statistics and analysis;

Dr. D. Frechtling (United States of America), Associate Professor of Tourism Studies, George Washington University, and expert in tourism analysis and in the measurement of tourism economic impacts;

Mr. F. Hernandez (Spain), Head of the Department of Statistical Classifications in the Instituto Nacional de Estadística (National Institute of Statistics);

Mrs. M. Libreros (France), expert in national accounts and responsible for the various versions (six) of the World Tourism Organization proposal for a TSA;

Mr. A. Pisarski (United States of America), expert in tourism and transport statistics and classifications;

Prof. J. Quevedo (Spain), former President of the Instituto Nacional de Estadística (National Institute of Statistics) and Head of the National Accounts Department.

4. The following countries and areas participated in the Enzo Paci World Conference on the Measurement of the Economic Impact of Tourism (Nice, France, 15-18 June 1999):

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Anguilla, Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belize, Benin, Bermuda, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Channel Islands, Chile, China, Communauté flamande de Belgique, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Holy See, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madeira, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Montserrat, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe.

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Environment statistics

London Group on Environmental Accounting

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting, which is contained in the annex. The report summarizes the progress on the revision of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) and presents the planned future work programme.

The Commission is requested to review the proposed revision process for SEEA and the schedule of activities outlined in its report. The Commission is also invited to discuss whether the mandates of the Group are focused and whether its objectives are clear and attainable. The Commission may also wish to comment on the proposals for future work.

* E/CN.3/2000/1.

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Annex

Report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations published a handbook on the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) entitled *Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting: Interim Version* in 1993.[a] In 1997, the Statistical Commission requested the London Group on Environmental Accounting to undertake a revision of the handbook. The purpose of the present report is to provide the Statistical Commission with information on:

(a) The steps taken to date with respect to the revision of the SEEA handbook;

(b) The objectives of the revised SEEA handbook (SEEA-2000);

(c) The process for consulting and communicating with the broader international community during the revision process;

(d) The steps remaining in the revision process;

(e) The roles and responsibilities of each of the principal participants in the revision process: the members of the London Group, the London Group Coordinating Committee, chapter coordinators, the Editor and the international agencies who will jointly publish SEEA-2000.

2. The London Group Coordinating Committee comprises the Australian Bureau of Statistics, as most recent host of the Group; the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat); Statistics Netherlands, as next host of the Group; the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD); Statistics Canada, as secretariat of the Group; the United Nations Statistics Division; and the World Bank.

3. The SEEA-2000 chapter coordinators are:

(a) Rocky Harris (United Kingdom Office of National Statistics):

Chapter 1. Introduction;

(b) Alessandra Alfieri (United Nations Statistics Division):

Chapter 2. Asset Accounts;

(c) Mark de Haan (Statistics Netherlands):

Chapter 3. Physical Flow Accounts;

(d) Alan Brown (United Kingdom Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions):

Chapter 4. Environmental Expenditure Accounts;

(e) Anton Steurer (Eurostat):

Chapter 5. Valuation and Monetary Accounts;

(f) Anne Harrison (OECD Statistics Directorate):

Chapter 6. Applications and Policy Uses.

4. The SEEA-2000 Editor is Anne Harrison (OECD Statistics Directorate).

5. The international agencies that will jointly publish the SEEA-2000 are Eurostat, OECD, the United Nations and the World Bank.

II. SEEA revision process to date

6. In 1997, the United Nations Statistics Division invited the London Group to participate in the revision process at a meeting held at Ottawa, and Statistics Canada became secretariat of the Group.

7. In 1998, the London Group agreed on an outline for SEEA-2000 at its May meeting held in France. Coordinators and working groups were identified to draft the material for each of the six chapters. The London Group Coordinating Committee, comprising the United Nations Statistics Division, OECD, Eurostat, Statistics Canada (as secretariat) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (as host of the 1999 meeting) was established. Drafting of chapter outlines began immediately after the meeting.

8. In 1999, the United Nations Statistics Division wrote to the heads of Eurostat and the statistical offices of OECD and the World Bank to invite them to co-author SEEA-2000. Drafting of chapters continued, slowly at first and then more actively in August through October. Progress was slower than hoped for in some areas and some members were not able to play as active a role as they would have wished due to other commitments. Experience showed that e-mail discussions alone were not enough to achieve quick progress. In response to these difficulties, Statistics Canada (as secretariat of the Group) wrote to the head of national and international statistical offices

requesting financial support for an Editor of SEEA-2000. Anne Harrison of OECD was proposed for this role. National statistical offices were also asked to reaffirm their commitment to release staff to work on the SEEA revision. The majority of members agreed to the appointment of Anne Harrison as Editor and agreed to fund her position. Statistics Canada wrote to OECD on the Group's behalf, accepting Anne Harrison as editor for the SEEA revision. Statistics Canada wrote again to the national and international agencies, requesting them to make the necessary arrangements to transfer funds to OECD to finance Ms. Harrison's position. The London Group met at Canberra from 15 to 19 November to discuss progress on the SEEA revision, with the following outcomes:

(a) Commitments from individuals to continue providing a high level of expertise and input to the drafting process were reaffirmed;

(b) Agreement was achieved on the structure of SEEA-2000;

(c) A better understanding of what progress had been made and what issues were outstanding was arrived at;

(d) Agreement on the processes that should be followed during the remainder of the revision and the roles and responsibilities of the various parties was arrived at.

III. Objectives of SEEA-2000

9. It is envisaged that SEEA-2000 will be an internationally agreed handbook on best practices rather than an international standard. It is intended to be submitted by the London Group to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session in 2001, and upon the Commission's approval of the revision process, SEEA-2000 will be jointly published by the United Nations, OECD, Eurostat and the World Bank in mid-2001.

10. SEEA-2000 will:

(a) Mainly present conceptual guidance on compiling integrated environment-economy accounts but also offer sufficient practical guidance (including likely data sources) on how to compile an account and on how to produce derived data;

(b) Use worked examples to aid in explaining complex issues;

(c) Present as far as possible harmonized and standardized approaches, concepts and definitions drawn from the results of country experiences;

(d) Provide alternative approaches in those cases where consensus cannot be reached;

(e) Be suitable for use by national accountants wishing to do environmental satellite accounts or environment statisticians wishing to put their data into an accounting framework;

(f) Show links between the accounting tools and policy uses;

(g) Be as much as possible a stand-alone document, with references to the System of National Accounts, 1993; the original SEEA handbook; the SEEA operational manual; the manual of the European System for the Collection of Economic Information on the Environment on environmental expenditure accounting; and other existing manuals, where relevant;

(h) Contain agreed terminology (in a glossary) and classifications.

IV. SEEA-2000 consultation and communication strategy*

11. The London Group recognizes the need to consult and communicate with the broader international community throughout the SEEA revision process. In the absence of adequate consultation and communication, SEEA-2000 will lack credibility with the international community. An objective of the strategy should be to minimize the possibility of late-arising, divergent views about substantive matters; once the SEEA-2000 is tabled to the Statistical Commission, it should already be internationally agreed upon to the greatest extent possible.

* Note that the steps in the consultation and communication strategy reviewed in the present section are also included under section V, "Steps remaining in the revision process"; the consultation and communication strategy is reviewed separately here in recognition of its fundamental role in ensuring the credibility of the revision process.

12. It should be noted that six additional countries from Latin America and Asia were invited to join the London Group as permanent members in 1999. With the addition of those new members, the London Group now includes the most active countries and organizations in environmental accounting around the world. Thus, many of the international stakeholders likely to have a strong interest in SEEA-2000 are directly involved in its production through the London Group.

13. The consultation and communication strategy will follow the schedule outlined below:

November 1999-April 2000

- The Coordinating Committee will draft a formal statement outlining the consultation and communication strategy and ensure that this is distributed widely among the international community.
- Where possible, individual members of the London Group will place links from their institution's web site to the London Group web site.
- An editorial will be placed in the United Nations Statistics Division newsletter discussing SEEA-2000 and outlining the consultation and communication strategy.
- Individual experts in non-London Group countries and organizations whose input is felt to be of particular importance will be contacted directly and invited to provide comments on the draft chapters.

20 April 2000

- Following the submission of final draft chapters to the coordinating committee on 31 March, and after a reasonable delay to allow the coordinating committee to meet and discuss them, the draft chapters will be placed on the London Group web site on 20 April. They will be available for comment to the general public as outlined below.

20 April 2000-20 June 2000

- First-round public comments on the draft chapters will be accepted until 20 June 2000.
- Those wishing to submit comments will be invited to send them to Statistics Canada (London Group secretariat).
- At a minimum, all submissions will be acknowledged with a letter thanking the contributor for his/her input. In instances where unambiguously correct comments are received, these will simply be absorbed into chapter drafts and contributors thanked for their input. Other submissions will require more elaborate responses explaining why only part (or none at all) of contributors' suggestions have been incorporated into the draft.
- The Coordinating Committee will oversee the process of responding to submissions received from the public.

Mid-2000

- Regional workshops will be co-organized by the United Nations Statistics Division. These will provide an occasion for developing countries not directly involved in the revision process to comment on SEEA-2000.

31 July 2000

- A draft version of the complete SEEA-2000 will be placed on the London Group web site on 31 July. This version will supersede the draft chapters placed on the web site on 20 April.
- Public comment will be welcomed on this draft until 31 September. The process for accepting public comment in the second round will be the same as that for the first round outlined above.
- This version of the draft will be discussed at end-August at a meeting of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth as outlined below.

End-August 2000

- A session on SEEA-2000 chaired by the Editor, Anne Harrison, will be held at a meeting of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth at the end of August. This will provide the professional and academic national accounting community with a formal opportunity to review and comment on SEEA-2000. The version of the SEEA-2000 discussed at the

meeting will be that posted to the London Group web site on 31 July.

End-October 2000

- The draft SEEA-2000, along with a report outlining any remaining outstanding issues arising from the consultation process, will be provided for comment to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts near the end of October 2000.

March or April 2001

- The final step in the consultation and communication strategy will be a United Nations expert group meeting at a location to be determined. This will provide a final opportunity for the international community to comment on SEEA-2000.
- Participation at this meeting will include selected members of the London Group as well as invited experts from national statistical agencies, international agencies and NGOs.

V. Steps remaining in the revision process

14. The steps remaining in the SEEA revision process are outlined below. The suggested timetable is ambitious and its success depends on:

(a) A strong commitment from all involved;

(b) A strong focus on the highest priority areas;

(c) A willingness by all concerned to compromise and to restrict the document to areas in which theory (and to a lesser extent practice) are well developed and agreed.

Completion of draft chapters: November 1999-March 2000

15. Working groups will continue drafting chapters. The Coordinating Committee and the Editor will steer the work to ensure that progress is good and that problems are resolved. Chapter coordinators will hand over finished drafts to the Editor no later than 31 March 2000. At this point, the major contribution to the SEEA revision by most London Group members will be complete. The remaining work will fall mainly to the Coordinating Committee, the chapter coordinators and the Editor.

Meeting to discuss progress: 10-12 April 2000

16. The Coordinating Committee, the Editor and (if necessary) chapter coordinators will meet at World Bank headquarters at Washington, D.C., to discuss what has been achieved and what, if anything, is still needed before the Editor can proceed to produce the first draft of the complete handbook. If necessary, requests for additional drafting by individual members will be made.

Draft chapters placed on London Group web site for first round of public comment: 20 April 2000

17. Statistics Canada (as the Group's secretariat) will place date-stamped versions of all draft final chapters on the London Group web site for public comment.

Deadline for submission of first-round public comments: 20 June 2000

18. Public comments will have to have been received by 20 June if they are to be taken into consideration in drafting the next version of handbook (for details on the process by which those comments will be received and considered, see para. 13 above).

Editor drafts first version of complete SEEA-2000 handbook: mid-April to end-July 2000

19. The Editor will work on the draft chapters provided at end-March over the following months to complete a draft of the complete SEEA-2000 handbook by 31 July. That draft will be placed for public access on the London Group web site (superseding the draft chapters placed on the web site on 20 April). The public will be invited to submit comments on this draft. Submissions will be welcomed until 31 September. This draft will be the basis of discussion in a session at the meeting of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth, as set out below.

IARIW meeting, Krakow, Poland: 28 August-1 September 2000

20. A session on SEEA-2000 will be held at the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) meeting at the end of August. At least some members of the Coordinating Committee will

attend the session, which will be chaired by SEEA-2000 Editor, Anne Harrison. The purpose of the session will be to provide the professional and academic national accounting community with an opportunity to review and comment on SEEA-2000. Three internationally recognized national accountants will be invited to introduce the discussion by presenting their written comments on SEEA-2000. After extensive open discussion, four members of the London Group will respond to the points raised on behalf of the Group.

21. Following the meeting, the Editor will prepare a summary of comments received during the IARIW session to be incorporated in the final draft of SEEA-2000. That summary will be available at the London Group meeting to be held in the Netherlands in October 2000.

Deadline for submission of second-round public comments: 31 September 2000

22. Second-round public comments will have to have been received by 31 September if they are to be taken into consideration in drafting the final version of the handbook (for details on the process by which comments will be received and considered, see para. 13 above).

London Group meeting, Voorburg, the Netherlands: 16-20 October 2000

23. A London Group meeting will be convened in the Netherlands to review the final draft of SEEA-2000. Once the Group has agreed on the handbook, the contribution of individual members of the London Group to the revision process will be essentially over. The responsibility for completing the process will then rest mainly with the international agencies and the Editor, with continued assistance from the Coordinating Committee.

Review of SEEA-2000 by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts: end-October 2000

24. The draft SEEA-2000, along with a report outlining any remaining outstanding issues arising from the consultation process, will be provided for comment to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts following the Voorburg meeting in late October 2000.

Editor works to finalize handbook: November 2000-February 2001

25. The Editor will work to complete the final London Group version of SEEA-2000, in collaboration with the international agencies and the Coordinating Committee and taking into consideration comments from the regional workshops, the IARIW meeting, the Netherlands meeting and any outstanding written submissions.

London Group presents SEEA-2000 to Statistical Commission: February 2001

26. The London Group will submit the final English version of SEEA-2000 as a background document to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session, in 2001. A statement of what remains to be done in the revision process will also be submitted. The Commission will be asked to approve the revision process to date and to agree with the intention that the international agencies proceed to publish the handbook in mid-2001 following a United Nations expert group meeting in March or April 2001.

27. Following the Statistical Commission meeting, the London Group's role in the SEEA revision process will end for all practical purposes. The remaining steps will be the sole responsibility of the international agencies.

United Nations expert group meeting: March or April 2001 (location to be determined)

28. A United Nations expert group meeting (including some London Group members) will be held to provide a final opportunity for the international community to comment on SEEA-2000. The meeting will comprise a somewhat wider attendance than the London Group to assure the international agencies that all countries have been adequately consulted.

Manual finalized for publication: May-August 2001

29. Following the expert group meeting, the international agencies will see to it that any requests for changes arising from the meeting are addressed. The agencies will oversee the publication of the final manual. It is hoped that SEEA-2000 will not require revision for at least five years following publication.

VI. Roles and responsibilities

London Group on Environmental Accounting

30. The London Group has been entrusted by the Statistical Commission with producing SEEA-2000. The final document will be presented as a room document at the thirty-second session of the Statistical Commission, in 2001. After that meeting, the London Group's formal responsibilities for the SEEA revision will end and the international agencies will finalize the publication process. Member countries and institutions of the London Group are providing the individual expertise contributing to the drafting of SEEA-2000. In addition, member countries of the London Group have contributed the necessary funding to engage the Editor, who will be essential in finalizing the handbook in a timely fashion.

Chapter coordinators and working groups

31. The primary responsibility of the chapter coordinators and working groups is to produce the draft chapter texts that will be used by the Editor in compiling the final handbook. In so doing, they will work closely with the Editor and the Coordinating Committee.

Coordinating Committee

32. The Coordinating Committee's primary responsibility will be to oversee the work towards the completion of the London Group version of SEEA-2000 and ensure its timely completion. It will meet face-to-face, as necessary, to facilitate its work. It will take decisions, in cooperation with the Editor and the chapter coordinators (and individual authors when necessary), on outstanding issues related to the handbook. It will ensure that the international community has adequate opportunity to comment on SEEA-2000.

SEEA-2000 Editor

33. Anne Harrison has been engaged to act as Editor for SEEA-2000. She will be occupied for approximately 12 months over a period of approximately 18 months, beginning in late 1999. It will be the Editor's role to work cooperatively with the Coordinating Committee and chapter coordinators to:

(a) Ensure the availability of draft texts on a timely basis;

(b) Clarify language, where necessary, and prepare a glossary;

(c) Work closely with the chapter coordinators and other London Group members to achieve consensus on sensitive matters;

(d) Transform chapter drafts into a cohesive handbook following the schedule outlined in paragraphs 13 and 15 to 29 above;

(e) Ensure that the final draft fairly reflects the views of all London Group members;

(f) Provide regular progress reports to the London Group and to the heads of all member agencies.

34. In the event that gaps are identified in the handbook and there is no London Group member available to draft the required text, the Editor will do so, in cooperation with the Coordinating Committee and the relevant chapter coordinator.

International agencies

35. The international agencies will publish SEEA-2000. It is therefore primarily their responsibility to ensure that the handbook reflects international opinion, even if the London Group actually facilitates much of the consultation.

36. Once the London Group has submitted its version of SEEA-2000 to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-second session, in 2001, the responsibility for seeking final international sign-off on the handbook will rest with the international agencies. As described in paragraphs 13, 28 and 29 above, this will be done through an expert group meeting to be held in March or April 2001.

37. Once final international sign-off has been obtained, it will be the international agencies' responsibility to coordinate the final steps in the publication of the handbook (translation, printing, dissemination, copyright etc.).

VII. Points for discussion

38. The Commission is requested to review the proposed SEEA revision process and the schedule of activities outlined in the report.

39. The Commission is also invited to discuss whether the mandates of the Group are focused and whether its objectives are clear and attainable. The Commission may also wish to comment on proposals for future work.

Notes

[a] Studies in Methods, Series F, No. 61 (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.93.XVII.12).

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Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Demographic, social and migration statistics: gender issues in measurement of paid and unpaid work

Implementation plan of a project on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains the implementation plan of a United Nations Statistics Division project on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work. It briefly describes the rationale and objectives of the project and its major expected outputs. The project was developed with the United Nations Development Programme and the International Development Research Centre/Canada. It follows up on the recommendations on time-use statistics of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-eighth session and on the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women.

* E/CN.3/2000/1.

00-23397 (E) 201299

I. Introduction

1. The Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women recommends that national, regional and international statistical services and relevant governmental and United Nations agencies in cooperation with research and documentation organizations work to "improve data collection on the full contribution of women and men to the economy, including their participation in the informal sector(s)"; and to "develop an international classification of activities for time-use statistics that is sensitive to the differences between women and men in remunerated and unremunerated work, and collect data disaggregated by sex".[1]

2. Further, the Statistical Commission, at its twenty-eighth session, emphasized the value of time-use statistics for a range of national and international socio-economic statistics, including gender statistics, and requested that a draft classification of time-use activities be prepared by the United Nations Statistics Division as a basis for further research and special studies.[2]

3. Following these recommendations, the Division, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Development and Research Centre/Canada (IDRC), developed the project on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work. An expert group meeting, convened from 31 March to 2 April 1998, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), reviewed a comprehensive overview of the range of problems and issues which need to be addressed to improve statistics on paid and unpaid work, and defined activities which the project could carry out at the international, regional and national levels. The meeting agreed on three broad areas of statistical work for consideration, as follows:

(a) Promotion of the collection of time-use data, particularly in developing countries, through methodological work and other means;

(b) Compilation of statistics on "difficult-to-measure" sectors of the economy, including the informal sector, home-based work and subsistence agriculture;

(c) Improvement of the measurement of paid and unpaid work in labour-force statistics.

II. Project objectives and implementation plan

4. The implementation plan is described in the annex to the present report.

A. Promoting collection of time-use data in developing countries

5. The project will promote and provide technical assistance to Governments in the conduct of national time-use surveys, with the objective of revising and further developing the trial international classification of activities for time-use statistics and preparing guidelines and methods for national time-use surveys.

6. A trial international classification of activities for time-use statistics was developed and reviewed by an expert group which met in New York from 13 to 16 October 1997. The classification has been tested in time-use surveys in Nigeria and Palestine, and is being used in the planned South African survey. Based on the experience in those countries and others where time-use surveys are also being conducted, the classification will be revised at the two-digit level and developed into a three-digit classification.

7. The project will also develop a manual to provide guidance on design issues for data collection on time-use. The manual, which will cover independent time-use surveys and multi-purpose surveys, and will highlight the special issues raised by those surveys in developing countries, will be based on ongoing national work and pilot studies supported by the project. An expert group meeting will be convened in September 2000 to review and assess country experiences relating to both time-use methods and the classification of time-use activities.

8. Important developments in the field of time-use surveys which the project builds on include the time-use study of the Statistical Office of the European Communities, which seeks to harmonize national time-use surveys in European countries and an increasing number of data-collection activities on time-use now taking place in developing countries. Benin, the Dominican Republic and Morocco now have data from national time-use surveys. India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Oman, Palestine and the Republic of Korea have recently completed, or are carrying out, field work on their surveys, and the United Nations Statistics Division is assessing the methods applied therein. Under the project, the Division is assisting Nigeria in planning a national time-use survey,

building on their pilot work, and assisting South Africa in the preparatory phase of a planned national time-use survey.

B. Compilation of statistics on "difficult-to-measure" sectors of the economy

9. The project also aims to improve the compilation and analysis of statistics on women in the informal sector, homeworkers and street vendors. The development and impact of work in this area is substantially enhanced by collaboration with Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), a worldwide coalition representing international organizations, academic institutions and non-governmental organizations concerned with statistics, research, programmes and policies on women in the informal sector of the economy. Among the organizations represented are the United Nations Development Fund for Women, ILO, Harvard University, L'Institut Français de Recherche Scientifique pour le Développement en Cooperation and the Self-Employed Women's Association. In these efforts, WIEGO and the United Nations Statistics Division are also collaborating with the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics.

10. A meeting of the WIEGO Working Group on Statistics was held on 17 and 18 October 1997 to plan future work and identify related ongoing work. A first phase of work reviewed, analysed and compiled existing statistics on home-based workers, street vendors and the informal sector. Five papers were prepared and presented at the second meeting of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics, in April 1998. The topics covered were: a data compilation and methods on women working in the informal sector and on street vendors in Africa; concepts and classifications to improve statistics on home-based workers and the informal sector; and a survey on homeworkers in Mexico.

C. Improving measurement of paid and unpaid work in labour force statistics

11. Main areas of concern in improving the coverage and content of labour force statistics are completeness of enumeration of women's and men's economic activities in labour force surveys, adequacy of economic classification for reflecting variations in women's economic activities, and greater utilization and analysis of labour force statistics. The project is collaborating with ILO on methodological work related to the inclusion of the variable "place of work" in household-based surveys. This will contribute to improving the measurement of home-based workers and street vendors, which are important components of the labour force in developing countries.

III. Points for discussion

12. Does the Commission agree with the project plan as described? What additions or modifications should be made?

13. Are there any activities or ongoing work that should be brought to the attention of those responsible for the project?

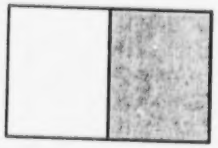
Notes

[1] See *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (A/CONF.177/20), paras. 206 (e) and (g).

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 8* (E/1995/28), para. 58.

Annex

Project on Gender Issues in Measurement of Paid and Unpaid Work: implementation plan for pilot phase
Period covered: September 1999-September 2000

Output	*Activity*	*Timetable* S O N D J F M A M J J A S
Primary focus: promotion and assessment of ongoing time-use surveys in countries with the objective of developing guidelines and methods for national work and an international classification of activities for time-use statistics for both developing and developed countries.		
1. Methodological materials on various aspects of time-use surveys	1.1. Provide technical assistance in planning and design of time-use surveys to countries (Cuba, Komi Republic/Russia, Nigeria, South Africa, Thailand)	
	1.2. Document and assess methods used in collection of time-use statistics (Benin, Dominican Republic, India, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Republic of Korea)	
	1.3. Prepare technical paper which reviews status of time-use surveys in developing countries and discusses general methodological issues that arise in undertaking time-use surveys in those countries and present at international meetings (Cuba, Ahmedabad) Paper will also be the basis for a section in *The World's Women 2000: Trends and Statistics*	
2. International time-use activity classification	2.1. Provide technical assistance in testing of United Nations trial time-use classification (Cuba, Komi Republic, Nigeria, South Africa)	
	2.2. Based on pilot surveys and discussions at meetings and time-use web site, revise trial international classification and develop 3-digit level codes	

Output	Activity	Timetable (S O N D J F M A M J J A S)
3. *Web site on time use*	3.1. Plan, design and create web site that will facilitate the dissemination of information on time-use statistics and host discussion groups on time-use survey methods	
	3.2. Prepare promotional materials and dissemination plan	
4. *International expert group meeting on time-use methods and classification*	4.1. Plan, organize and obtain meeting funding	
	4.2. Prepare and disseminate methodological materials (draft guidelines, recommendations on time-use classification, etc.) to experts/participants	
	4.3. Document conference discussions and revision of methodological materials	
Additional focus: improving statistics on women's participation in difficult-to-measure sectors of the labour market, such as homeworkers, street vendors and the informal sector.		
5. *Methodological materials on measurement of women's paid and unpaid work*	5.1. Draft recommendations on measurement of the variable "place of work" in labour force surveys in identifying informal sector workers, homeworkers and street vendors	
	5.2. Provide technical assistance to countries in improving coverage and content of labour force surveys, especially in the measurement of women's paid and unpaid work	
	5.3. Organize panel on gender issues in the measurement of paid and unpaid work at Beijing+5 conference	

Output	Activity	Timetable S O N D J F M A M J J A S
	5.4. Prepare technical paper on gender issues in measurement of the informal sector for May 2000 meeting of Commonwealth Statistical Offices	
6. *Compilations of statistics on women in the informal sector, homeworkers and street vendors*	6.1. Provide technical assistance to WIEGO in compilation of statistics on the informal sector, homeworkers and street vendors	
	6.1.1. Meet with WIEGO to plan and further develop strategies and outputs of project component	
	6.1.2. Compile existing statistics on size, characteristics and contribution of the informal sector to gross domestic product, disaggregated by gender	
	6.1.3. Carry out national comparative and detailed estimates in selected countries through further analysis of existing data	
	6.1.4. Develop and test new concepts, methods and classifications to improve statistics on street vendors and home-based workers in collaboration with the Delhi Group, ILO/International Conference of Labour Statisticians, HomeNet and Street Vendors Alliances	
	6.2. Provide technical assistance in the generation of informal sector statistics in Asia under a proposed United Nations Statistics Division-funded programme for the region	

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Demographic, social and migration statistics: social statistics

Report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Statistical Commission the report of the Siena Group for Social Statistics (secretariat: Italy), which is contained in the annex. The report is transmitted to the Commission in accordance with a request of the Statistical Commission at its thirtieth session.[1]

The Statistical Commission is invited to discuss whether the mandate of the Group is focused and the objectives are clear and attainable. The Commission may also wish to comment on the proposals for future work.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 4* (E/1999/24), chap. I.B.

* E/CN.3/2000/1.

99-37709 (E) 171299

Annex

Report by the Siena Group for Social Statistics

Purpose

To promote and coordinate international cooperation in the areas of social statistics by focusing on social indicators, social accounting, concepts and classifications, and an analysis of the linkages and frameworks for integrating social, economic, and demographic data for the purposes of policy formulation and analysis.

Year organized

1993.

Participants

Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Economic Commission for Europe, Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), United Nations Statistics Division

Meetings and other events

Siena, October 1993.
Stockholm, June 1994.
Oslo, June 1995.
Paris, June 1996.
Neuchâtel, Switzerland, June 1997.
Sydney, December 1998.
Maastricht, the Netherlands, 22-24 May 2000.

The International Summer School on Social Statistics is organized by the Training Institute for European Statisticians and the Siena Group, in cooperation with the University of Siena, and is sponsored by Eurostat. The Summer School's programme is developed around three courses/themes to be arranged over three consecutive years. The first theme was "Inequality and equity" (5-11 July 1998). The second theme (1999) will be "Participation, discrimination and exclusion" (approached mainly from the meso level). The third (2000) will be "Cohesion, integration and policy analysis" (approached mainly from the macro level) and is tentatively scheduled for the week of 28 May 2000 at Siena.

Topics considered

1. National accounts, economic analysis and social statistics.
2. Social reporting and social accounting.
3. Monitoring social exclusion in education and labour markets.
4. Intergenerational relations and social mobility.
5. On the way to a multicultural society.
6. Families at the end of the twentieth century.
7. Accounting in social statistics and indicators for social development.

Products

A volume of proceedings after each meeting, most recently:

"Families at the end of the twentieth century" (1999). Available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics; send requests to:

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E-mail: marion.mcewin@abs.gov.au

"Monitoring multicultural societies: a Siena Group report". Available from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, at:

Schwarztorstrasse 96
CH 3003 Bern
Tel: +41 (0)31 322 87 87
Fax: +41 (0)31 322 78 57
E-mail: paul.roethlisberger@bfs.admin.ch

"A statistical portrait of youth exclusion" (1997). Available from the Italian National Statistical Office, at:

Centro Diffusione
Fax: +39-06-4673-4177
E-mail: dipdiff@istat.it

Planned activities

Theme of next meeting

Accounting in social statistics and indicators for social development

Rationale

The ongoing transformation of social statistics from a wide variety of isolated statistics into integrated systems (comprehensive surveys, social accounting matrices etc.) is considered to be the logical consequence of the increased need on the part of modern policy makers to monitor social and economic developments via a restricted set of authoritative indicators based on a consistent framework of statistical information via internationally comparable statistical information (indicators) and harmonization efforts. Indicators and integration were discussed in earlier Siena Group meetings as well as in the context of the Mondorf seminars.[a] Experience with building statistical systems and developing and using indicators is not yet equally spread. A variety of international organizations have developed sets of social (key) indicators and formulated requirements for the basic statistical information. In anticipation of these policy demands, some national statistical institutes have experimented with integrating surveys, some have put much effort into building accounting systems and some have investigated the possibilities of existing and new registers and other administrative sources. To consolidate the achieved progress and stimulate further developments, the meeting at Maastricht is intended to provide a forum to resolve outstanding issues and share existing experience, find new approaches and develop common strategies. The meeting will tentatively be divided into five sessions, as follows:

(a) The state of the art and its relevance to the policy agenda;

(b) Why and for whom indicators are produced;

(c) How we decide what to measure;

(d) How data is collected and what provisions are made for consistency and comparability;

(e) The linking of monetary and non-monetary phenomena making up social accounting systems.

Point of contact

The local organizer of the Siena Group meeting 2000 is Pieter Everaers, former head of the Department of Sociocultural Surveys at Statistics Netherlands, currently working as an adviser on new developments in social statistics for Eurostat. Contact:

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The Siena Group also maintains an Internet site within the English language section of the Italian National Statistical Office site at:

http://www.istat.it

Notes

[a] The Mondorf seminars were a series of annual meetings (1994-1996) focusing on the theme "The future of social statistics", in which the directors of social statistics of certain national statistical institutes, along with representatives of the relevant directorates of the European Commission and university research bodies, came together for free and informal discussions. The conclusions of these meetings, upon submission to the Statistical Programme Committee for approval, were used to adapt the European system of social statistics to changes taking place in European countries and new user needs.